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SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATING BUSINESS PURCHASING
FUNCTIONS VIA A GLOBAL COMPUTER NETWORK

This application claims the benefit of
provisional application 60/205,857 filed May 19, 2000.

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to business
productivity, and more particularly to a process for
automating the acquisition, routing and processing of
information relating to the purchase of products and
10 services.

In the past, procurement of goods and services
for businesses has been a multi-step process,
involving many people and taking substantial time.
Moreover, the procurement process has been subject to
15 various inconsistencies, particularly relating to the
selection of vendors and the prices paid. Various
factors, such as past quality of service provided,
were often overlooked. Therefore, the vendor
selection process could easily result in bad choices
20 being made, with disappointing outcomes.

It would be advantageous to provide an automated
procurement system that does not suffer from the
above-mentioned problems. Moreover, it would be
advantageous to provide a procurement system that is
25 computerized and enables all relevant organization